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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/648,912	08/27/2003	Edgar Weiss	60130-1791;02MRA0466	5064
26096	7590	05/24/2004	EXAMINER	
CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS, P.C. 400 WEST MAPLE ROAD SUITE 350 BIRMINGHAM, MI 48009			PEDDER, DENNIS H	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3612	

DATE MAILED: 05/24/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/648,912	WEISS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Dennis H. Pedder	3612	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 May 2004.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-8, 10-17 and 19-21 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-8, 10-17 and 19-21 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 2, 10-17, 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 2 lacks antecedent of “positive fit”, cancelled from claim 1.

Claims 10, 11, 13, 19 are indefinite in “spaced apart from said at least one slotted guide in the horizontal direction in the raised position”. The nose 26/28 is part of the guide as disclosed and is vertically above the drain gutter in figure 1.

Claim 11 is further vague in that the slotted guide does not engage the bearing part, but a nose engages a recess in the bearing part to secure.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any

evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. Claims 1-6, 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) or 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kohlpaintner et al., optionally in view of Lutz et al..

Kohlpaintner et al. has the guide 14 disclosed as slotted per the disclosure of Lutz et al. in column 3, line 2, locking portion 25 on the guide, profiled rail 15 with second locking portion 32, and discloses direct engagement between 25/32 in both initial and raised positions to prevent horizontal movement. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to provide in Kohlpaintner et al. a slot on the guide as taught by Lutz et al. in order to move same.

As to claim 2, see edges 26,27 for a positive fit.

As to claim 3, see figure 1.

As to claim 5, 25 is an extension and 28 comprises a recess in the rail.

As to claim 6, see pivot bearing at 16, allowing pivotal motion by its tapered end portions.

6. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kohlpaintner et al. optionally in view of Lutz et al. as applied to claim 5 above, and further in view of Pollard.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to provide in the references above a C-shaped rail as taught by Pollard in order to provide symmetrical support for the roof panel at speed where wind load can be extreme.

7. Claims 13-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over either 1) Kohlpaintner et al., optionally in view of Lutz et al. or 2) Ohtsu et al., either set modified in view of Otake et al..

Claim 13 omits applicant's argument regarding direct engagement.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to provide in either Kohlpaintner et al. as modified by Lutz et al. or in Ohtsu et al. a drain gutter 21, bearing part supporting spring 23, and coupling/decoupling at 22/10 as taught by Ohtsu et al. in order to 1) catch water at the rear panel edge in vent position, and 2) to move the gutter rearwardly to fully open the panel. The bearing part and gutter are spaced from the guide in raised position.

8. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over 1) Kohlpaintner et al. optionally in view of Lutz et al. or 2) Ohtsu et al., either set modified in view of Pollard.

Both Kohlpaintner et al. and Ohtsu et al. use single side locking pins. Use of dual side pins is deemed to be an obvious duplication of parts as evidenced by the Pollard reference at 78,80 wherein these projections extend to both sides of the panel lower projection and engage within a pair of recesses in top wall 28 of a rail 26 in order to prevent horizontal displacement as well as inadvertent upward displacement in lowered position. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to provide in either set above dual projections and recesses as taught by Pollard for the reason advanced.

9. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) or 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kohlpaintner et al. optionally in view of Lutz et al..

The locking portions of Kohlpaintner et al. disengage when the panel is lowered.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to provide in Kohlpaintner et al. a slotted guide as taught by Lutz et al. in order to move the panel.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

10. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

11. Claim 21 is further rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ohtsu et al...

The locking projections of Ohtsu et al. disengage when the panel is lowered as seen in figure 3.

Allowable Subject Matter

12. Claim 19 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

13. Claims 11-12 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

Response to Arguments

14. Applicant's arguments filed 5/4/2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Please see the detailed action above.

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Conclusion

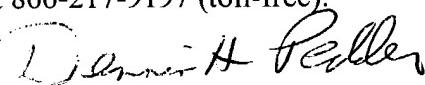
15. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

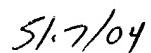
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dennis H. Pedder whose telephone number is (703) 308-2178. The examiner can normally be reached on 5:30-2:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn D. Dayoan can be reached on (703) 308-3102. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Dennis H. Pedder
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3612



DHP